



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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To: ACO's

From: DSD, Support Services Division

Subject: State Global Positioning System (GPS) Lead

California BLM recognizes the need to assign a GPS Lead for the state, to ensure consistency and reliability of GPS data. Dan Schank, a Geodesist with the Branch of Geographic Services, is being assigned this important role. His background includes an education in land surveying, along with extensive use of both resource and survey grade GPS equipment and software. Dan is currently involved in drafting the Cadastral Survey National GPS Standards and Guidelines, and is the BLM representative to the California Spatial Reference Center.

Since BLM often uses GIS data as base information for making decisions about land, it is important certain criteria and standards are met by the collected data. In past years, resource grade GPS data has been collected using different equipment, software and procedures, and the data stored for use with GIS. The result is a wide array of accuracies and precision of available GIS data, which cannot be easily filtered for different uses. In order to prevent this problem for future GPS data collections, Dan will perform the following functions:

1. Provide central point of contact for consistency in approval for all GPS equipment and software purchases.
2. Notify the State IRM Configuration Manager of all approved GPS purchases.
3. Coordinate with IRM and software manufacturers to update GPS software and firmware, ensuring consistency and compatibility.
4. Provide GPS related technical assistance, and organize GPS training sessions.
5. Inform GPS users of changes in Global Positioning System technology.

Dan will be providing instructions to all CA BLM GPS users concerning the procedures to follow when purchasing GPS equipment and/or GPS software; these instructions will be issued by June 15, 2001. Dan is located in the State Office (CA-942), and can be reached by telephone at (916) 978-4318.

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